

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 21 through 31, 33, 34, 38 and 39 are pending in the application. Claim 21, 28, and 33 are independent claims. Claims 22 through 27, and 38 depend from claim 21. Claims 29 through 31 depend from claim 28. Claim 34 depends from claim 33. New claim 39 depends from claim 28.

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Office that claims 21 through 31, and 38 are allowed.

Applicant further expresses appreciation that claims 33 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended claim 33 accordingly, and believes that both claims 33 and 34 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant is in receipt of the Advisory Action of August 24, 2004 stating that applicant's amendment of August 4, 2004 will not be entered because the amendment is not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing and/or simplifying the issues for appeal.

In the Advisory Action, the Office maintains that claims 32 and 35 through 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,662,332 to Garfield (hereinafter "Garfield"). Specifically, the Office contends that claim 32 is unobvious. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office. Notwithstanding, applicant herein cancels these claims without prejudice to file a future continuation patent application directed to these claims, and to allow the instant patent application to pass to issuance.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all claims presented in this application patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and the cited combinations of same. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and the passage of all claims to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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